

# Important Guidance on Japan's Border Control Measures Related to COVID-19 For Entrants from the United States

Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

The Government of Japan (GOJ) has implemented multi-layer border control measures in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Due to the complexity of these measures, the Consulate has created this guide to highlight the essential points which are applicable to the majority of foreign nationals currently living/staying in the United States (U.S.). For more information on how Japan's border control measures apply to countries and regions outside of the U.S., please refer to the relevant websites by the related Ministries and Agencies of Japan.

## 1. Denial of Permission to Enter

Until further notice, the GOJ will deny permission to enter Japan to foreign nationals in the categories listed below, as they fall under *Article 5, paragraph (1), item (xiv) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act*, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

- (1) Foreign nationals who have been physically present in the U.S. in the 14 days prior to their arrival to Japan.
  - 145 countries and regions other than the U.S. that the GOJ has applied entrance restrictions to can be found here: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e\\_001053.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html)
- (2) Foreign nationals who hold a Chinese passport issued in the Hubei Province or the Zhejiang Province of China.
- (3) Foreign nationals who were on the cruise ship Westerdam, which departed from Hong Kong.

Note: Foreign nationals with the “Special Permanent Resident” status are not subject to Article 5, paragraph (1), item (xiv) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. Therefore, they will not be denied permission to enter Japan based on Japan's Border Control Measures Related to COVID-19.

## < Exceptional Circumstances >

- Foreign nationals with the status of residence of [1]“Permanent Resident,” [2]“Spouse or Child of Japanese National,” [3]“Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” or [4]“Long Term Resident\*,” (including a spouse or a child of a Japanese national who does not have these statuses of residence\*\*) who departed from Japan to the U.S. with Re-entry Permit/Special Re-entry Permit on or before April 2, 2020, will be treated as persons in the special circumstances category. Starting on September 1, 2020, those foreign nationals will be required to present a “Letter of Confirmation of Submitting Necessary Documentation for Re-entry into Japan” issued by the Embassy or Consulates of Japan and a “Certificate of testing for COVID-19” at the immigration office to enter Japan.

Note\*: “Long Term Resident” is a legal term for a specific status of residence. It should not be confused with other statuses of residence that include long term stay permission.

Note\*\*: Foreign nationals who are a spouse or a child of a Japanese national but do not have one of the statuses of residence [1]-[4] indicated above are recommended to bring proof of their relationship with the Japanese national such as a birth certificate, marriage certificate, or Koseki (Japanese family register).

- **Starting on August 5, 2020, foreign nationals with a valid Re-entry Permit/Special Re-entry Permit and status of residence other than the four categories specified above, who departed from Japan on or before April 2, 2020, will also be treated as persons in the special circumstance category.** They will be required to present a “Letter of Confirmation of Submitting Necessary Documentation for Re-entry into Japan” issued by the Embassy or Consulates of Japan and a “Certificate of testing for COVID-19” at the immigration office to enter Japan.
  - Further information about the above measure can be found here:  
[https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e\\_001074.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001074.html)
  - The process and required documents for re-entry can be found here:  
[https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page25e\\_000334.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page25e_000334.html)
  
- Foreign nationals who do not fall under the two categories referenced above, but are in situations similar to the examples indicated in the link below may also be granted re-entry/new entry to Japan. If you think you are eligible for re-entry, please contact *the Immigration Service Agency* directly. If you think you are eligible for new entry, please contact the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco.
  - Examples of exceptional circumstances:  
<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001321982.pdf>
  - Adjudication Division, Immigration Department, Immigration Services Agency:  
Tel: +81-3-3580-4111 (Ext. 4446/4447)
  - Further information about denial of permission to land can be found here:  
[http://www.moj.go.jp/EN/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/m\\_nyuukokukanri01\\_00003.html](http://www.moj.go.jp/EN/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/m_nyuukokukanri01_00003.html)

## 2. Suspension of Visa Validity

- (1) Validity of the visas indicated in the link below have been suspended.
  - [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e\\_001053.html#section3](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html#section3)
  
- (2) While the validity of visas issued by the Embassy of Japan and the Consulates General in the U.S. have NOT been suspended, foreign nationals with a valid entry visa of Japan that was issued on or before April 2, 2020 will still be subject to “Denial of Permission to Land” as indicated above, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco if you plan to visit Japan with a valid entry visa of Japan issued on or before April 2, 2020 AND you think you fall under exceptional circumstances.
  
- (3) Please also note that new visa applications made by anyone who falls under the categories listed in the “Denial of Permission to Land” section above will not be accepted based on the "[Criteria of Visa Issuance](#)," unless there are exceptional circumstances.
  - Further information can be found here:  
[https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e\\_001053.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html)

## 3. Suspension of Visa Exemption Measures

- (1) Visa exemption measures with the countries and regions indicated in the link below have been temporarily suspended.
  - [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e\\_001053.html#section4](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html#section4)
  
- (2) While the Visa Waiver Agreement between Japan and the U.S. has NOT been suspended, foreign nationals who intend to enter Japan under the agreement will still be subject to “Denial of Permission

to Land” as indicated above, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, if you plan to visit Japan under the Visa Waiver Agreement AND if you think you fall under exceptional circumstances.

- Further information can be found here:  
[https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e\\_001053.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html)

## 4. Quarantine Measures after Entry into Japan

- (1) All people from the U.S. (including Japanese nationals and those foreign nationals permitted to land in Japan as a result of their exceptional circumstances) will be required to take COVID-19 tests in Japan. It may take up to 2 days to get your results and you must, in principle, stay at a designated location while you wait for the results.
  - (2) They will also be required to self-quarantine at their home/place of accommodation for 14 days after entering Japan. In addition, those people will be required to refrain from using public transportation (including trains, buses, taxis, or domestic flights) in Japan for 14 days after their arrival. You should secure accommodations where you can stay for 14 days and private transportation from the airport to your destination. These restrictions will be in effect until August 31, 2020.
- Further information including applicable countries and regions other than the U.S. can be found here:  
[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryuu/covid19\\_qa\\_kanrenkigyuu\\_00003.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/covid19_qa_kanrenkigyuu_00003.html)
  - For questions regarding the quarantine measures, please contact the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare directly: Tel: +81-3-3595-2176